

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-10. (Canceled).

11. (Currently Amended) A gene fragment coding for a single chain Fv (hereinafter referred to as "scFv") of a human anti-human IL-6 antibody that binds to human IL-6 with a dissociation constant (K_D) of 1.0×10^{-8} M or less and

~~inhibits the biological activity thereof to thereby block binding between IL-6 and its receptor,~~

said gene fragment consisting of a gene fragment coding for a VH chain of said human anti-human IL-6 antibody bound to a gene fragment coding for a VL chain of said human anti-human IL-6 antibody;

wherein complementarity determining regions (CDR1 to CDR3) of said VH chain have the following amino acid sequences:

CDR1: Lys Tyr Tyr Met Ala (SEQ ID NO: 5)

CDR2: Thr Ile Ser Asn Ser Gly Asp Ile Ile Asp Tyr
Ala Asp Ser Val Arg Gly (SEQ ID NO: 6)

CDR3: Glu Tyr Phe Phe Ser Phe Asp Val (SEQ ID NO: 7)

and/or complementarity determining regions (CDR1 to CDR3) of said VL chain have the following amino acid sequences:

CDR1: Arg Ala Ser Gln Asp Ile Arg Asn Trp Val Ala
(SEQ ID NO: 8)

CDR2: Asp Gly Ser Ser Leu Gln Ser (SEQ ID NO: 9)

CDR3: Gln Gln Ser Asp Ser Thr Pro Ile Thr Phe (SEQ ID NO: 10).

12-20. (Canceled).

21. (Currently amended) A gene fragment coding for a single chain Fv (hereinafter referred to as "scFv") of a human anti-human IL-6 antibody that binds to human IL-6 with a dissociation constant (K_D) of 1.0×10^{-8} M or less and ~~to thereby block binding between IL-6 and its~~ receptor,

said gene fragment consisting of a gene fragment coding for a VH chain of said human anti-human IL-6 antibody bound to a gene fragment coding for a VL chain of said human anti-human IL-6 antibody,

wherein said VH chain has the amino acid sequence depicted in SEQ ID NO: 2 and/or said VL chain has the amino acid sequence depicted in SEQ ID NO: 4.

Appln. No. 10/526,072
Amd. dated August 6, 2008
Reply to Office Action dated: May 8, 2008

22-33. (Canceled) .